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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Christoph, Dorr  
Serial No. : 09/554,025  
Filing Date : May 8, 2000  
Title : BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT  
Art Unit :  
Examiner :  
Attorney Docket : TRW(EHR) 4846  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400  
January 22, 2001

**BOX IDS**

Commissioner Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending application, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for pending U.S. applications. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth below.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☐ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National stage.
- (b) ☒ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a Notice of Allowance.

- 1) ☐ A certification is given below, or
- 2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$240.00) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for consideration of this statement, or
- 3) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

- (d) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.

Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.

- 1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) \$130.00, or
- 2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

**(A duplicate of this Petition is attached)**

4. Certification (if applicable)

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application not more than 3 months prior to

the filing of this Statement. A copy of the foreign Search Report is enclosed.

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency fees, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

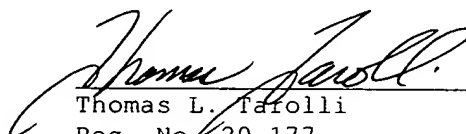
**CONCISE EXPLANATION**

<u>PUBLICATION No.</u>	<u>STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE</u>
DE 40 32 541	Discloses a ball joint having a ball stud, bearing, a boot seal and a fastening ring.
DE 196 21 722	Discloses a ball joint having a ball stud 36, bearing 64 and outer housing parts 60, 62 which are interconnected.
DE 1 300 740	Discloses a ball joint having a ball stud 23, a bearing 4, a housing 1 and a seal 5.

**OTHER**

<u>PUBLICATON</u>	<u>STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE</u>
"Automobil-Industrie"	October 1994, pages 72,73 BASF Kunststoff-Technologie

Respectfully submitted,

  
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